Is that…
Silica?
GASP
はっ
Kirito-sa...
Kirito-san!!
I beg you...
Please help me!
おぉ-!?
The Secret in the Depths of the Forest
森の深奥の秘密
相模琳
Sagami Rin
Pina's ...

Pina's gone...!
Have you calmed down?
Yes ...
I'm sorry ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH ...
WANT SOME TEA?
SOB
So, what's wrong? You said Pina was gone?

We were attacked by monsters in a forest outside this city... They weren't unbeatable opponents, but...
...my HP was low, so we decided not to take chances and run away
Your HP was low, so you temporarily returned to town to resupply?
Yes
However, while running away, Pina and I ended up getting separated... I did think about returning as soon as possible to look for her, but...
K...Kirito-san!
I know that this is a shameless request...
but please help me find...
ぽすんっ
PAT

So, shall we...
...go look for Pina?
K...
Kirito-san,
thank you
PAT
ぽん。

W-WAH!?
LOSES BALANCE
どーしぁ...
どきっ
Yeah. But it's way too vast...
This place isn't a problem for your level, right?
Be careful
!
ぐいっ

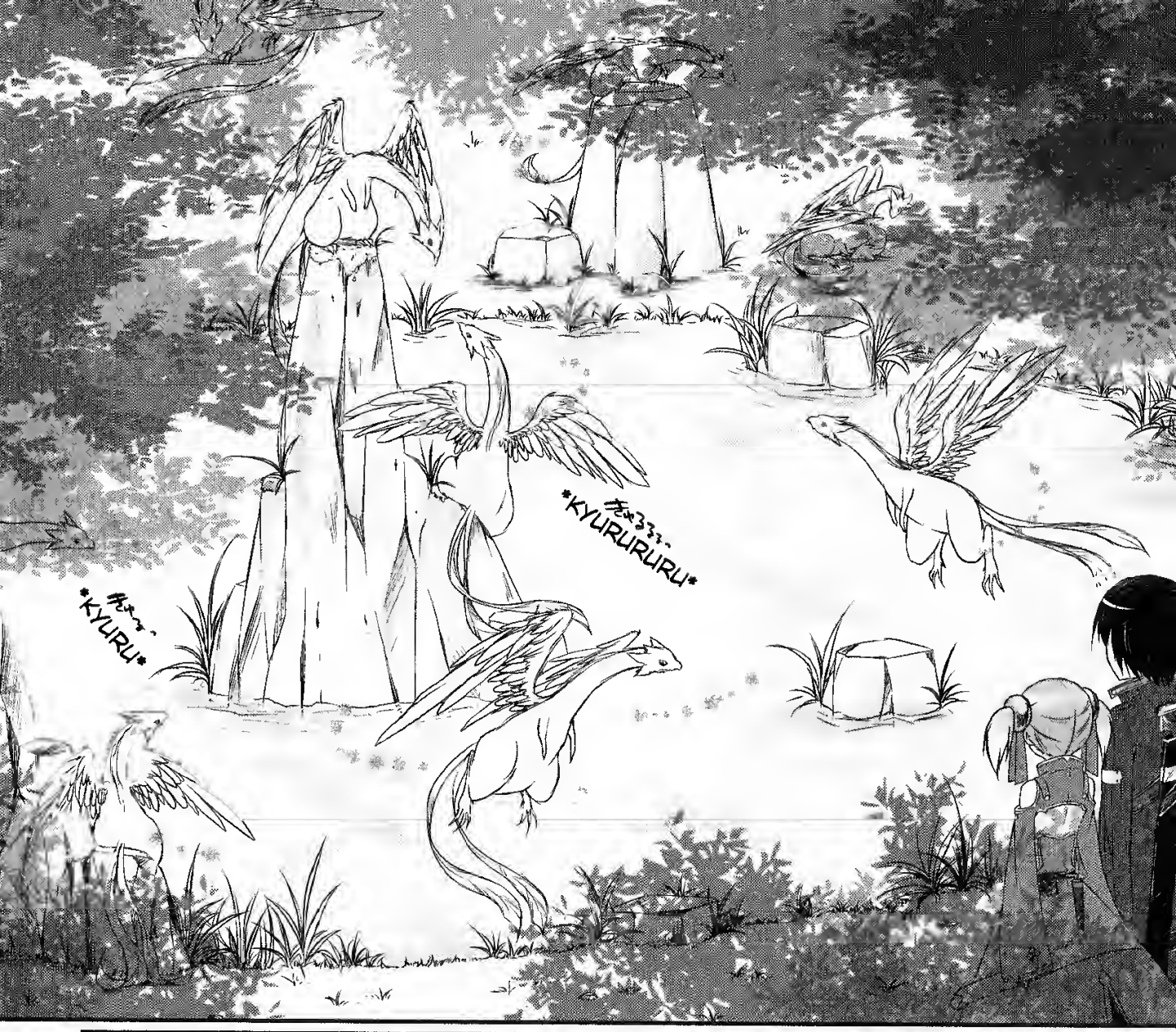
WHIRLS AROUND
No worries ...
S-
Sorry!
Silica ... Are you OK?
Yeah ...
THUD
The terrain here is bad, so you have to be careful...
Right, sor-
WAAH
!?
Haven't you been a bit careless?
Silica
Sorry for causing you trouble, kirito-sa ...

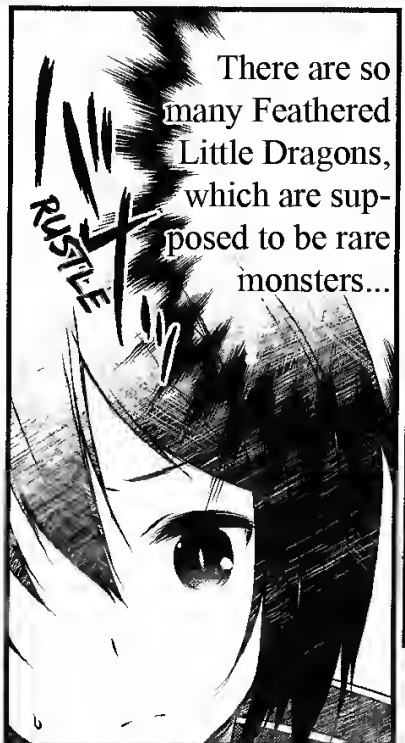
SNIFF
You are ... worried about Pina, right ...?
I... ...haven't changed at all since that time... I haven't grown at all
Sorry
I'm not angry or anything
I don't know what I'm going to do if we don't find Pina...
It's going to be fine
PAT
HAHA
She's laughing?
WH-!
Pina's all right and we will definitely find her!

Kirito-san, you really are like a "big brother", aren't you
スーにゃん♡
AAH!!
GASP
BLUSH
HUH?
So, shall we go find Pina?
PSHHHH
Umm! Sorry, please forget what I just said!!
Yeah

Pina --!!
Answer if you can hear me—!!
We can't find her even though we've been looking this hard ...
If we can't find her ...
TEAR
TAP
We could have crossed paths with her...
Because the forest is too wide for its degree of difficulty
TAP
TAP

Ye...
Why don't we try turning back and heading to town by a different route?
KYURU
Kirito-san!
What was ...!
Yeah ...
I heard it!
It's this way!
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
Waah .....
This is .....


KYURURURU
KYURU


RUSTLE
There are so many Feathered Little Dragons, which are supposed to be rare monsters...

GYU
GYU

Pina, Pina... You had me worried, you know. I'm glad you are safe
KYUUUUU
Pina!?
KYURU!
KYURU
It seems that they're becoming less cautious...
KYURU
KYURURU
KYU~
It's the first time I've seen this many Feathered Little Dragons!
KYURU!
ARE ALL OF THEM YOUR FRIENDS?
...
...
It's very rare, but ...

I've heard that there were places where monsters of the same race gathered, but...
On top of such a phenomenon being rare,
Feathered Little Dragons themselves are rare monsters
KYU--
TICKLE
TICKLE
And there are no tracks of anyone else having been here...
I really can't express how fortunate we are to be in a place like this

PAT
ぽん
Any-way
I'm glad we found Pina
スッ
Yes
Thank you, Kirito-san.
Well then, shall we head back?
Yup
ふっ
PINA, YOU SHOULD ALSO THANK KIRITO-SAN
KYURU

Ah
S-say, Kirito-san
わて
わて
わて
?
I have a request ...
きゅ～ん
That is...
could we keep this place a secret when we return to town?
If a lot of people come here, the dragons will probably leave...
きゅるる。
きゅる。
They're living peacefully in such a lovely place

So, I want it to be left in peace
Don't worry. I have no intention of telling anyone about this place
WELL, LET'S HEAD BACK!
KYURU
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION——
I ended up causing you a lot of trouble and yet I'm still saying such things
I am glad that I could come to such a lovely place with you, Kirito-san
Thank you so much!

RAW: TAKAZUKI
TRANSLATION: GSIMENAS
EDITING/PROOFREADING: 1CAISER
CONSULTATION: TAP
TYPESETTING: DENNIS

I don't think of it as trouble at all
I'm also glad that I could come to this place together with you
KYURU
Kirito-san
really is a great big brother...!
…THE END…